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E. De la Garza

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

TO: NEWS MEDIA
FROM: Kika de la Garza
RE: Statement on President's Proposed Surtax
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- 23 October 1974

The proposed income surtax would hit hardest at middle income people, who already are the chief victims of inflation.

The proposal apparently is based on the theory that people are spending money unnecessarily and that the additional tax would siphon these expenditures out of the market and thereby check inflation. I doubt the validity of this theory.

If people are spending more, it is because they have to in order to keep up with the skyrocketing cost of living. Few middle income families have any money left over after they have bought the necessities -- and many are having to skimp on the necessities.

I know this is the case in South Texas. I suspect it is generally the same story throughout the nation.

We must continue and expand efforts to curb the disastrous inflationary trend -- all of us: government, business and labor, the financial community, individuals.

TO: NEWS MEDIA

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But there are serious questions about whether inflation can be halted or even slowed down by slapping an additional tax burden on the very people who are finding it harder and harder to get by on their present incomes.

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